

**25th Anniversary Reception at U.S. Consulate hosted by
Consul General Susan Elliott**

HEATHER CAREY (Chair):

I want to begin by thanking the Consul General Susan Elliott for kindly hosting this reception to mark the beginning of what I hope will be a successful anniversary year for the 174 Trust.

We have a number of events planned over the next 12 months with the aim of celebrating 25 years of important work – and not a little risk taking – in what is still the most divided and disadvantaged area of North Belfast.

It is hoped that throughout this next year we will have the opportunity to reconnect with people who not only made a valuable contribution to what is a fascinating, and in many ways a unique, story - but also people whose lives were touched – transformed even – by the efforts of so many associated with the Saltshaker and the Trust.

I should also say that this anniversary year will also involve a focused and sustained effort – over and above the normal fiscal challenges – to raise a Reserve Fund of £65,000 which we feel is necessary to bring a degree of stability to the organisation that we have up to this point never enjoyed.

So Susan, thank you again for this opportunity to launch our appeal and celebrate in these beautiful surroundings and perhaps we'll get the chance to return your wonderful hospitality when you visit us at the Complex.